

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 01585 101139Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 /071 W

----- 091936

P R 101045Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2658

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE PRESS REMAINS VOCAL AND CRITICAL IN WAKE  
OF GVN CRACKDOWN

1. CONTRARY TO THE VIEW BEING EXPRESSED IN VIETNAMESE PRESS THAT GVN IS EFFECTIVELY MUZZLING OPPOSITION PRESS THROUGH ITS WITHDRAWAL OF LICENSES (FEBRUARY 3) OF FIVE SAIGON DAILIES AND ARREST (FEBRUARY 4) OF COMMUNIST AGENTS, SPATE OF VITRIOLIC AND DENUNCIATORY ARTICLES CRITICIZING GVN APPEARING IN PRINT IN WAKE OF GVN ACTION IS SOLID EVIDENCE THAT SAIGON PRESS CONTINUES TO EXERCISE VERY SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF PRESS FREEDOM. ALL ISSUES OF BOTH INDEPENDENT AND OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED BANNER HEADLINES AND NUMEROUS ARTICLES DENOUNCING THE "CRACKDOWN" AND ACCUSING GVN OF "ARBITRARY AND DICTATORIAL ACTION."

2. TRANG DEN LED THE WAY IN ITS ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 4 BY PUBLISHING A STRONGLY WORDED "PROTEST" BY FATHER TRAN HUU THANH, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT AND DOC LAP CARRIED THE VN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION'S PROTEST ON ITS FRONT PAGE. DAI DAN TOC RAN A MAJOR HEADLINE ON FEBRUARY 4 WHICH READ: "NIGHT OF PANIC FOR THE PRESS" AND PRINTED FULL TEXT OF SCATHING PROCLAMATION WHICH IT ATTRIBUTED TO THE MILITANT LAWYERS FORCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 01585 101139Z

EM OTHER TYPICAL EXAMPLES INCLUDED DOC LAP PUBLISHING ON FEBRUARY 5 THE FULL TEXT OF A PROTEST LETTER OF "STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PRESS AND WRITERS STRUGGLING FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND PUBLICATION" WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY SENT TO PRIME MINISTER. ON FEBRUARY 8 DAI DAN TOC CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH'S END-OF-YEAR STATEMENT UNDER HEADLINE: "EITHER THE TYRANNICAL POWER STEPS BACK TO LET THE PEOPLE ADVANCE IN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY OR EVERYTHING WILL COLLAPSE AND THERE WILL BE NEITHER RECONCILIATION NOR CONCORD." CHINH LUAN PUBLISHED A LETTER "WRITTEN IN BLOOD" BY 48 OPPOSITION DEPUTIES TO "MOURN THE DEATH OF THE RVN'S CONSTITUTIONALLY ESTABLISHED DEMOCRATIC REGIME."

4. THE FOREGOING EXAMPLES SHOULD SERVE AS ADEQUATE PROOF THAT THE OPPOSITION IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING IN SAIGON ONE WEEK AFTER THE GVN "CRACKDOWN."  
LEHMANN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** THE PRESS, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SAIGON01585  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750047-0770  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabzab.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIETNAMESE PRESS REMAINS VOCAL AND CRITICAL IN WAKE OF GVN CRACKDOWN  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006